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**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
GROUP ART UNIT 1771**

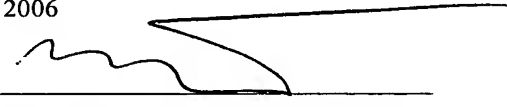
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Rudolf GAERTNER et al.
Serial No. : 10/074,404
Filed : February 12, 2002
For : Tufted Backing and Method of Manufacturing Same
Examiner : Cheryl Ann Juska
Art Unit : 1771
Confirmation No. : 7026

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: April 11, 2006

Signature: 
Richard M. Rosati (Reg. No. 31,792)

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

S I R:

In response to the Final Office Action dated January 11, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.